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QUERY.—What is the explanation of the phenomena described below?

If a ball of cork or other lighter substance be placed in a vertical jet of water of sufficient force to elevate the ball, it will rise to a point where the force of the ascending jet, or so much of it as is efficient in elevating the ball, is just equal to the weight of the ball, and will there *revolve*; and its equilibrium will continually be restored, notwithstanding the ball may be disturbed by slight horizontal forces.

BOOK NOTICES.

Comets and Meteors. By DANIEL KIRKWOOD, L. L. D., Professor of Mathematics in Indiana University, and author of "*Meteoric Astronomy*." J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia.

To those who have not yet seen this very interesting book by Prof. Kirkwood, the following quotation from the *Preface* will serve to indicate its character:

"The origin of meteoric astronomy, as a science, dates from the memorable star shower of 1833. Soon after that brilliant display it was found that similar phenomena had been witnessed, at nearly equal intervals, in former times. This discovery led at once to another no less important, viz: that the nebulous masses from which such showers are derived revolve around the sun in paths intersecting the earth's orbit. The theory that these meteor-clouds are but the scattered fragments of disintegrated comets was announced by several astronomers in 1867—a theory confirmed in a remarkable manner by the shower of meteors from the *debris* of Biela's comet on the 27th of November, 1872. To gratify the interest awakened in the public mind by the discoveries here named, is the design of the following work. Among the subjects considered are, cometary astronomy; aerolites, with the phenomena attending their fall; the most brilliant star-showers of all ages, and the origin of comets aerolites, and falling stars."

Surveying and Navigation, with a Preliminary Treatise on Trigonometry and Mensuration. By A. SCHUYLER, A. M., Professor of Applied Mathematics and Logic in Baldwin University; author of "*Higher Arithmetic*," "*Principles of Logic*," and "*Complete Algebra*." Wilson, Hinkle & Co., Cincinnati and New York.

We would be pleased to give an extended notice of this book did our space permit. We must be content to say, however, that, as a text book for the student, and as a manual for the surveyor, we think it admirable, both in plan and execution. The subjects discussed are thoroughly and yet concisely dealt with; and the paper, wood cuts and typography are perfect.

Yates County Chronicle. Persons who are fond of solving mathematical problems and who want something new upon that subject every week and a good newspaper besides, will do well to obtain the *Yates County Chronicle*; published at Penn Yan, New York. DR. S. H. WRIGHT, Mathematical Editor.